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NEWS.

MR. E. W. D. HOLWAY has been appointed assistant professor of botany in the University of Minnesota.

PROFESSOR GIROLAMO COCCONI, a well known Italian mycologist, died at Bologna, October 6, at the age of 82.

PROFESSOR GASTON BONNIER of Paris has been elected a member of the Royal Microscopical Society of London.

AUGUST FRANZ LEJOLIS, the well-known French marine phycologist, died August 20 at Cherbourg, at the age of 81.

MR. CLIFTON DURANT HOWE, instructor in the University of Chicago, has been appointed instructor in botany in the Biltmore Forestry School. He will enter upon his duties January 1, 1905.

A. H. REGINALD BULLER, of the University of Birmingham, has been appointed professor of botany in the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada, and assumed his new duties in October.

THE ADDRESS of Professor F. O. BOWER delivered at the International Congress of Arts and Science, St. Louis, September 1904, was published in *Science* of October 21. He discussed the relation of the axis to the leaf in vascular plants.

COMMISSIONED by the Department of the Interior, the Swiss Scientific Society announces that it will award a stipend of 5,000 francs to enable some Swiss botanist to visit Buitenzorg. Applications are to be sent to Professor Dr. C. SCHRÖTER of Zürich.

THE BOTANICAL MAGAZINE (Tokyo), in its September number, has begun to publish a résumé of its Japanese papers in some European language. This puts the contents of the journal within the reach of all botanists, and will avoid the compulsory neglect of interesting Japanese contributions.

THE LECTURES given by Professor DE VRIES at the University of California are being edited by Dr. D. T. MACDOUGAL and will appear in a volume to be entitled *Species and varieties; their origin by mutation*, to be published by the Open Court Publishing Co., of Chicago. The book is promised in January.

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE has now two cooperating gardens established especially for the study of the date palm, one at Tempe, Arizona, and one at Mecca, California. In all probability a third garden may be established near Yuma. The thorough studies under way on the life history of this plant in connection with its introduction into practical culture promise to yield results of interest both to botanists and to horticulturists.

THE REPORT of the Imperial Botanic Garden of St. Petersburg for 1903 contains the following items of general interest: the collection of living plants comprised 34,887 species; during the year there were 40,296 visitors; the herbarium had an accession of 10,808 species (52,421 specimens); the library contained 14,986 works in 30,952 volumes. Attached to the garden are the biological laboratory, the seed-testing station, the central station for plant pathology, and the school of horticulture.

BOTANICAL SUBJECTS for the Walker Prizes have been announced as follows. For 1905, 1. "The life history of any parasitic fungus;" 2. "Contribution to our knowledge of the physiology of plants;" 3. "Study of hybrids in animals or plants;" 4. "Critical study of geographical distribution of species." For 1906, 1. "An experimental field study in ecology;" 2. "A contribution to a knowledge of the nature of competition in plants;" 3. "A physiological life history of a single species of plants;" 4. "Phylogeny of a group of fossil organisms." Address the secretary, GLOVER M. ALLEN, Boston Society of Natural History, Boston, Mass.

THE *Experiment Station Record* states that the order establishing the soil and fertilizer laboratory in the Bureau of Chemistry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been abrogated, and in lieu of this laboratory one to be known as the plant analysis laboratory has been established. The laboratory is charged with the examination of fertilizers and will collaborate in this work with the referees of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, and with the investigation of the constitution of plants. It is authorized to collaborate with the Bureau of Plant Industry in the chemical investigation of problems in which the two bureaus are mutually interested.—*Science*.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION for the Advancement of Science will meet in Philadelphia December 27-January 2, and the many affiliated societies gather in the course of this convocation week. Thus, the eleventh annual meeting of the Botanical Society of America is called at this time under the presidency of FREDERICK V. COVILLE. CHARLES R. BARNES, the retiring president, will give an address on *The theory of respiration*. By invitation of the Council special papers will be presented by Professor BALFOUR of Edinburgh and Professor VÖCHTING of Tübingen. On Dec. 28-30, the eighth annual meeting of the Society for Plant Morphology and Physiology will be held. Doubtless the Mycological Society will meet in Philadelphia also in the same week, though announcements have not yet reached us.

There is every indication that these meetings of botanists will be of unusual interest and importance. Among other matters to be considered will be the plan for a union of the botanical societies. Preliminary suggestions for such a union have been sent by the committees of conference to all members for their consideration, and the replies received will be used as a basis for the formulation of a definite plan which will be sent to all members before the meeting. This plan will then form the basis for the discussion at the meetings and for the decision for or against a union.